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# LETTER DATED 27 OCTOBER 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CROATIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Upon instructions from my Government, I should like to bring to the attention of the Security Council the unknown whereabouts of about 3,000 Bosnian Muslim and Croat men in north-western Bosnia, in the Banja Luka area, who may be alive but are feared dead, and request that the Council take measures that would allow international observers into the area in question. The prolonged disappearance of these men has raised justified suspicions about their fate, given the most recent circumstances surrounding the fate of about 6,000 Srebrenica men and given the continuing well-documented Serbian policy of mass extermination of captured men of military age. The fate of these men may have a definitive impact on the peace talks that will resume next week and, since the men may still be alive, any action that may save their lives will affect the negotiations positively and help to bring the peace process to its final and just conclusion.

When examining this issue, the Council should not condone the responsibility of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) in this regard. The Belgrade Government has assumed responsibility for the Bosnian Serb authorities by representing them in international forums. It has benefited from such a position in the past and stands to benefit from that position in the future. More importantly, credible evidence exists that many citizens and military personnel from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) are actively engaged in military activities in north-western Bosnia, as they were in Srebrenica, in direct violation of the border blockade of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia established by resolution 943 (1994), among others. Additional evidence exists that two members of the Serbian Parliament, Zeljko Arkan Raznjatovic and Vojislav Seselj, are actively involved in military operations in the area, and paramilitary troops under their control are committing systematic abuses and murder of the remaining Muslim and Croat civilians there.

My Government, while recognizing that collateral damage and excesses in war cannot be perfectly controlled, believes that international observers should be allowed access to all areas once military activities cease, as is the case in

north-western Bosnia. We should like to emphasize that the Croatian authorities have undertaken significant measures to mitigate the collateral damage and excesses of its own military activities, including giving access to as many as 308 humanitarian organizations to areas under its control, and commencing more than 3,000 legal proceedings in cases of abuse. The transparency shown by the Croatian Government should be demanded from all parties in the conflict.

Further in this regard, my Government welcomes the recent reports that the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) will allow access to some areas in question, and hopes that access to the Banja Luka area will also be granted and secured.

May I request your kind assistance in distributing the present letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mario NOBILO
Permanent Representative

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